

SECRET

66-84-24

26 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL CHARLES P. CABELL

From: Brig Gen Edward G. Lansdale *S/E.L.*

Subject: A Soviet Coincidence

Colonel Prouty on our staff has called my attention to press stories originating from TASS announcing the death of two top Soviet military. He saw the story in today's New York Herald Tribune. The TASS release announced that Soviet Rocket Forces Commander, Marshal Mitrofan I. Nedelin was killed in a recent aircraft accident. It also noted the death of Colonel General Nikolai O. Pavlovski "while fulfilling his official duty."

Since Khrushchev stayed in New York for weeks before and after the proclaimed "day the world will long remember," 27 September 1960 - a day which still has not been explained adequately - it is possible that there might be more than coincidence between the un-named world shaking event and the "accidental" death of two top Soviet military. I thought you might like to have this checked to see if there were any leads to serious problems inside the Soviet Union that were being resolved in this fashion rather than accepting the deaths as mere accidents.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Defense*)

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

ER FILE

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General Cabell noted original of attached and forwarded to C/SR with note: "You probably are already working on this for its P.P. value. It might be quite useful."

/s/ CPC 10/28

ER-For file